Garden Talk Switch

Notice how speakers choose language for different people and situations.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.3b "Compare and contrast the varieties of English (e.g., dialects, registers) used in stories, dramas, or poems."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that sound casual, and circle words or phrases that sound formal. Write D beside one word or phrase that shows a dialect variety, then use your marks to compare the speakers' language choices.

A Visit to the Garden

1. At the town garden, Maya hurried toward the tool shed. "Hi, Ms. Lee! Can I borrow the hose? Our beans look thirsty." Her cousin Jordan waved from the gate. "Hey, Maya, y'all need help? I brought a bucket." Ms. Lee smiled. "Thank you, Jordan. We can use it for watering beside the tomato beds today."

2. A few minutes later, Ranger Ortiz arrived to inspect the garden's water tank. He said, "Good afternoon. Please keep the path clear while I check the valve." Maya stood taller and replied, "Certainly, Ranger Ortiz. Jordan and I will move our tools now." Jordan whispered, "Whoa, we better make room." The ranger's careful words helped everyone know what to do safely.

3. After the inspection, Ms. Lee asked the children to tell the garden club what had happened. Maya began, "The ranger checked the valve, and we moved our tools." Then she added, "He stated that the path must remain clear for safety." Jordan nodded. "That sounds more official than how we talk at home," he said. Maya agreed, "Different situations call for different ways of speaking."

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Compare Jordan's greeting at the gate with Ranger Ortiz's opening directions. Which sounds more casual, which sounds more formal, and give one phrase from each.

2. In paragraph 3, which of Maya's two descriptions of the inspection uses a more formal register? Give two clues from her words.

3. How is Maya's reply to Ranger Ortiz different from Jordan's whispered comment? Use wording from both speakers to explain.

4. What word shows a dialect variety in the passage? What does the word mean?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence mini-scene. In sentence 1, a child makes a casual request that includes a dialect word or casual phrase. In sentence 2, the child makes the same request in a formal register. In sentence 3, explain one difference between the two varieties of English. Underline one phrase in each of the first two sentences.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Talk Switch

GRADE 5 · L.5.3b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that sound casual, and circle words or phrases that sound formal. Write D beside one word or phrase that shows a dialect variety, then use your marks to compare the speakers' language choices. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare Jordan's greeting at the gate with Ranger Ortiz's opening directions. Which sounds more casual, which sounds more formal, and give one phrase from each.	**Jordan's greeting is more casual, such as "Hey, Maya" or "y'all need help?" Ranger Ortiz's directions are more formal, such as "Good afternoon" or "Please keep the path clear."**
2	In paragraph 3, which of Maya's two descriptions of the inspection uses a more formal register? Give two clues from her words.	**"He stated that the path must remain clear for safety" is more formal. Clues include "stated" and "must remain."**
3	How is Maya's reply to Ranger Ortiz different from Jordan's whispered comment? Use wording from both speakers to explain.	**Maya uses polite, formal wording, such as "Certainly, Ranger Ortiz." Jordan uses casual wording, such as "Whoa" and "we better make room."**
4	What word shows a dialect variety in the passage? What does the word mean?	**"Y'all" shows a dialect variety. It means "you all," or more than one person.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

"Hey, _y'all_, pick up the blocks before we go," Nia said to her classmates. "Please _place the blocks in their bins_ before we leave," Nia told her classmates. The first request is casual and uses y'all, while the second sounds formal because it uses more careful words.

Accept answers that correctly compare casual and formal register using evidence from the passage. Accept dialect varieties as valid ways of speaking, not as mistakes, when students explain their meaning or use.